6th January 1954]

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

' That the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1953 (L.A. Bill No. 12 of 1953), as amended by the Joint Select Committee be taken into consideration.' "

II.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS—*cont.*

(2) MOTION UNDER PROVISO TO RULE 24 OF THE MADRAS ASSEMBLY RULES.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, before we proceed to consider the Malabar Tenancy Bill, I wish to move the following motion :— 10-10 a.m.

> ' *That rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 7th January* 1954.'

" I may inform the hon. Members that 9th January 1954 will be a non-official day."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I think the Hon. Leader of the House has moved the motion in consultation with the leaders of various parties and so the House will give permission to the Government to transact official business to-morrow. The question is—

' That rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 7th January 1954.' "

The motion was put and carried.

IV.—PRESENTATION OF PETITION TO THE HOUSE BY SRI P. RAMAMURTHI, M.L.A.

* SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" கனம் சபா நாயகர் அவர்களே, மலையாள ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து லட்சக் கணக்கான விவசாயிகள், இப்போது விவாதத்தில் எடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கக் கூடிய இந்த மலையாள குடிவார பாத்தியதை சம்பந்தமாக அவர்களுக்கு இருக்கக்கூடிய எதிர்ப்புகளைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ள ஒரு நீண்ட மகஜரை சட்ட சபைக்கும், சட்ட சபை சபா நாயகருக்கும், சட்ட சபை அங்கத்தினர்களுக்கும் இந்த சட்ட சபையின் **142**-வது விதியின் கீழ் சமர்ப்பிக்க இங்கே வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த லட்சக்கணக்கான விவசாயிகளின் சார்பாக **41** பேர்களைக் கொண்ட விவசாயிகளுடைய தூது கோஷ்டி ஒன்று இப்போது இங்கே வந்திருக்கிறது. அதன்படி அவர்களால் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் நீண்ட மகஜர் இதோ இருக்கிறது. (சபையில் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டது.) அதன் சுருக்கம் என்ன எனபதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

" மலையாளத்திலுள்ள விவசாய மக்கள் நீண்ட காலமாக போராட்டங்கள் நடத்திவந்ததன் காரணமாக, அதன் விளைவாக, **1930**-ம் வருஷத்தில் இருந்ததை விட இன்றைக்கு பார்க்கும்போது சிறு சிறு மாறுதல்கள் ஏற்பட்டுள்ளன. ஆனால் இப்போது இங்கு கொண்டு வந்திருக்கும், போராட்டத்தை தொடர்ந்து நடத்தி கொண்டு வந்திருக்கும் வகையிலே ஒரு நீண்ட மகஜர் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டு, அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு நியாயமான முறை வகுக்க வேண்டுமென்று வந்துள்ளனர். நியாயம் வழங்குவதற்கு பதிலாக . . . . "

* DR. K. B. MENON :—" The hon. Leader of the Opposition knows Malayalam and English also. As this is a Bill which directly concerns Malabar, and as we Members coming from Malabar will not be in a position to understand his speech correctly if delivered in Tamil, I request him to speak in English."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Leader of the Opposition may speak in English. I have no objection if he speaks in Malayalam."

10-20 a.m. * SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I would make a departure from my practice of speaking in Tamil on this occasion because this is a very important question concerning Malabar and the representatives from Malabar in this House must be able to follow what I say.

" Sir, the petition is on behalf of the peasants of Malabar to the Hon. the Speaker and to the Legislature itself. This petition is signed by over a lakh and a half peasants distributed throughout the district of Malabar, almost in every village. The main purport of this petition is this. The petition is written in Malayalam and and I shall give a gist of it in English. I am not going to make a speech on it. The petition points out that the peasants of Malabar have been struggling for long for betterment of their condition against the ravages of landlords. For nearly a century they have been struggling. It was in the year 1930 that, for the first time, a legislation was enacted called the Malabar Tenancy Act and this Act did not even touch the fringe of the problem facing the peasants of Malabar. Therefore, the agitation continued and the struggle was carried on in an organised manner from the year 1934. It was as a result of this agitation that a committee, called the Kuttikrishna Menon Committee was appointed in 1937 to enquire into the Malabar land tenures, nearly eight years after the first Act was passed."

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Is the hon. Member strictly following the provisions of the Rules for presentation of petitions from outside bodies or is he taking part in the debate itself? If it is a question of giving the time of the House to outside bodies then I do not think that it would be a good precedent for a speech to be made on a petition presented to the House."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Rule 144 of the Assembly Rules says—

'Every member offering to present a petition to the Assembly shall confine himself to a statement of the parties from whom it comes, of the number of signatures attached to it and of the material allegations contained in it and to the reading of the prayer of the petition.' "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Unless the Rule is followed, it would mean that the time of the House can be taken by any outside body."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I am not speaking on the petition but I was trying to give a gist of what it contains. I am quite aware of the Rules."

6th January 1954]

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" You are giving a history of the agitation."

* SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" That is what it contains. The peasants point out in their petition that as a result of their agitation the Kuttikrishna Menon Committee was appointed. Sir, in the year 1951, another amending legislation was passed by the Legislature and even this the Government land to suspend because of the fact that the peasants and people of Malabar opposed it. Now a new Bill has been brought forward and even this does not satisfy the just demands of the peasants. They had submitted through their organisations very many amendments to the Joint Select Committee for incorporation in the Bill but unfortunately they were not accepted. They now submit that their amendments might be accepted by the House so that justice might be done to them. The petition, as I have already said, is signed by a lakh and a half peasants."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Please hand it over to the Secretary."

The petition was duly handed over to the Secretary.

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" For information, may I ask the hon. Member to tell us, since he has counted all the numbers so correctly whether the bundles here represent copies of the same printed petition? "

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Yes. Signatures have been obtained on the same form."

III—GOVERNMENT BILL—*cont.*

THE MALABAR TENANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953 (L.A. BILL NO. 12 OF 1953)—*cont.*

* SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, now I would like to speak on the Bill that is now before the House. This is a very important Bill in spite of the fact that it touches only a part of the State, viz., Malabar district and I hope Members who have come here from other parts of the State will evince keen interest in this Bill and take the fullest share in its discussion and voting. The question of tenancy is nothing new to this House. It has been before the House for nearly thirty years. But I would like to go a little back to the days when this struggle started. The urgency of the problem was so great in Malabar even a century ago that there were several revolts, peasant revolts in that part of the State. In 1884, there was a peasant revolt. Again in 1921, there was stagged one of the biggest of revolts which was otherwise called the Moplah Rebellion. The British Government did not like the revolt to be called an agrarian revolt and tried to give it a communal turn."

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The hon. Member probably had not much knowledge of the details of the Moplah Rebellion. That was entirely over the Khilafat question and there was a rumour circulated that a Turkish ship was waiting in the harbour and hence the rebellion."